	Page 1
1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	Case No. 15-10839
4	x
5	In the Matter of:
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7	NANCY JEAN BURBRIDGE, Chapter 13
8	Debtor.
9	x
10	Case No. 15-11083
11	x
12	In the Matter of:
13	
14	LAURIE A. TODD, Chapter 11
15	Debtor.
16	x
17	Case No. 16-10694
18	x
19	In the Matter of:
20	
21	STANLEY LAWRENCE DISTEFANO, JR., Chapter 7
22	Debtor.
23	x
24	
25	

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1	US Bankruptcy Court
2	James M. Hanley U.S. Courthouse &
3	Federal Building
4	100 South Clinton Street
5	Syracuse, NY 13261
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7	September 19, 2016
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21	BEFORE:
22	HON MARGARET CANGILOS-RUIZ
23	U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
24	
25	ECRO: CAROLYN BEHM

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1	APPEARANCES:
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3	LEMERY GREISLER, LLC
4	Attorney for Stanley DiStefano and Christi DiStefano
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25	PETER PASTORE, ESQ.

	Page 5
1	ALSO PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY:
2	
3	NANCY BURBRIDGE
4	DOUGLAS BURBRIDGE, SR.
5	DOUGLAS BURBRIDGE, JR.
6	
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13	BY: ADAM SCHWARTZ, ESQ.
14	
15	JACK WILSON, Representative of Endurance American Insurance
16	Company
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Page 6 1 PROCEEDINGS 2 THE COURT: Good evening. We want to thank the 3 parties for their patience today and working early in the 4 morning at 10:00 a.m. until -- well, we almost made 12 5 hours, 9:25 tonight. 6 THE COURT: We are calling the case of Nancy 7 Burbridge, Case No. 15-10830; Laurie Todd, Case No. 15-8 11083; and the pending involuntary petition against Stanley 9 DiStefano, Case No. 16-10694. And I am going to call on the 10 names of the parties that are on the phone and just ask that 11 when I call your name, you indicate that you are on the 12 phone. 13 THE COURT: Nancy Burbridge. 14 MS. BURBRIDGE: Here. 15 THE COURT: And Douglas Burbridge, Sr. 16 MR. BURBRIDGE, SR.: Senior. 17 THE COURT: And Douglas Burbridge, Jr. 18 MR. BURBRIDGE, JR.: Here. THE COURT: And on behalf of Endurance Insurance 19 20 Company, Adam -- Attorney Adam Schwartz? 21 MR. SCHWARTZ: Here. 22 THE COURT: And your client representative, I understand, Jack Wilson is on the line? 23 24 MR. WILSON: Here. 25 THE COURT: And in the room presently, I'm going

Page 7 1 to start on this side on my left and you can indicate who 2 the clients are with you. 3 MR. LEVINE: Paul Levine, Your Honor, Lemery 4 Greisler, here for Stanley DiStefano and also Christi 5 DiStefano. 6 MR. BRENNAN: Frank Brennan, Nolan & Heller, on 7 behalf of Laurie Todd. 8 THE COURT: And counsel? 9 WOMAN: They're on the phone, they want you --10 MR. LAURIELLIARD: Kevin Laurielliard appearing on 11 behalf of Janice DiStefano and also the Burbridges. 12 MR. BURBRIDGE: And Mr. Burbridge --13 WOMAN: This hearing --MR. PASTORE: All the Burbridges. Peter Pastore 14 15 with Kevin Laurielliard. Did you also announce the case of 16 Mr. DiStefano's --17 MAN: Yes. THE COURT: Yes, I did. 18 MR. PASTORE: -- involuntary petition? We also 19 20 represent Janice DiStefano as a petitioning creditor in the 21 involuntary. That's McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, 22 Peter Pastore and Kevin Laurielliard. 23 THE COURT: Okay. We started as I indicated and 24 there has been an offer made globally by the DiStefano, Todd 25 and Burbridge entities to Endurance on the outstanding

indemnity. And I am going to turn to Lemery Greisler now to indicate the terms, and I'm going to let any other party attorneys who are on the line to also have a chance to speak if they need to clarify any of the terms mentioned.

MR. LEVINE: Thank you, Judge. Paul Levine for Stanley and Christi DiStefano. I'm going to endeavor, Judge, to set forth the general terms of the settlement.

And I think the parties understand that there are significant details that will still need to be worked out, but the general outline, I think, has been agreed to.

Endurance will be paid a total amount of \$1,350,000 and the parties will contribute the following amounts to that total. Stanley Distefano, \$870,000; Nancy Burbridge, \$170,000; Douglas Burbridge, Jr., \$70,000; and Laurie Todd, \$240,000.

With regard to Stanley's share, it's his intent to sell his marital residence at Sage Estates in (indiscernible), New York or Menands, New York, and it's our intent to get that house, once the Court approved the settlement, to get that house on the market as soon as possible. That house was built by Mr. and Mrs. Distefano in the early '90s. For decades it was titled in Christi and Stanley Distefano as tenancy by the entirety. When Mr. Distefano got the reverse mortgage on the house, as a requirement of that mortgage, it had to be titled solely in

Mr. DiStefano's name. As part of this, we would like to retitle it back into Christi and Stanley in order to take full advantage of the capital gains tax exemption for a homestead in the marital residence.

Endurance has requested collateral in the nature of a mortgage of \$200,000 and would also like to reserve its rights to request additional collateral to protect against additional payment claims being made against its bond. The parties are still discussing the details of endeavoring to provide that, both mortgage and additional rights, and we hope to be able to resolve that. Indeed, we hope to be able to convince Endurance that such additional collateral is not even necessary. But that is an open issue, Judge, and the parties will work together to try to resolve that.

Assuming the settlement is consummated and complete, Endurance will reassign to the Green Island Company the lawsuit that's pending against the State of New York. Nancy Burbridge will provide a full release to all other indemnitors, including the company. And Stanley DiStefano, Christi DiStefano and Laurie Todd will similarly provide a full release to all other indemnitors, except the company, it being Stanley and Nancy's -- or I'm sorry -- Stanley and Laurie's intent that should the company recover monies from the lawsuit or other assets, that they could be reimbursed for their contributions, as set forth and

otherwise, certainly on behalf of Laurie and Stanley.

WOMAN: Yes.

MR. LEVINE: As part of this, in order to get the house on the market and to otherwise live, Mr. and Mrs.

DiStefano, Stanley and Christi, that is, will need to access equity in their Hawaii property and will request the parties' cooperation in doing that.

With regard to Nancy Burbridge and Laurie Todd, they will need to access their IRA funds, and it's my understanding that they will seek to do that in a timely fashion, but that they may wish to bridge that between this year and next year so as to minimize tax consequences. And as I said, to fund the settlement, Stanley and Christi will have to sell the Sage estate property and obviously that will take some time, but will endeavor to do it as soon as possible.

So, my point is that the parties will need to cooperate as to timing of things. It's our intent, Judge, that this will be set forth in a comprehensive settlement agreement by and amongst the parties and brought on for approval by the Bankruptcy Court, Albany Division, Judge Littlefield, because there are a handful of other creditors in the cases that will need to be noticed properly with regard to such matters.

The extra collateral that Endurance is seeking

1	with regard to claims is for valid claims. That's how I
2	understand it, Judge. I'm sure the parties will have
3	something to add, but I think
4	THE COURT: Do you have anything to add about an
5	escrow. For example, some of the inherited IRAs taken down?
6	MR. LEVINE: Yeah. It because there's three
7	parties contributing to the settlement, their contributions
8	may become liquid at different times. So the parties will
9	have to work together to set up what we think may be an
10	escrow, such that Endurance will get all of its money at the
11	same time, or as otherwise agreed by the parties. But we
12	understand that Endurance is making a comprehensive
13	settlement and doesn't want to do this piecemeal, and that
14	consideration for all the parties is that all of this
15	happens. So we'll have to work out the mechanics that.
16	THE COURT: Very good. Would someone like to add
17	on the record on behalf of Laurie Todd? Do you have
18	anything to add? Just in terms of I'm taking it from the
19	Debtors' side in terms of the offer first and then I'll turn
20	to Endurance.
21	MR. BRENNAN: Your Honor, that Mr. Levine
22	accurately stated our understanding of the terms of the
23	settlement, subject to the resolution of the details for the
24	timing of the funding that Mr. Levine referred to.
25	THE COURT: Okay. And is there something on

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MR. PASTORE: Yes. Peter Pastore on behalf of the Burbridges. Obviously, there will be a release and waiver of any and all contribution claims among the various indemnitors when the settlement becomes final and payment is made. Moreover, the surety will also issue unqualified, unconditional releases of our three clients. With that -- I mean, I think that goes without saying --

MAN: Any other indemnitors.

MR. PASTORE: Any other indemnitors, right. All the indemnitors. If -- is there any possibility that Endurance would want monies paid prior to the breaking of a total escrow payment? Obviously, the client that put up that money would need those releases at that juncture. And will leave that up to Endurance to make that decision because it may take a little longer for the Sage Hill mansion the soul, and if Endurance -- I don't know if Adam would like to comment on that, but if there would be a release of those monies to Endurance, we would want a correlative release of all indemnitors that are paying at that juncture.

> MR. WILSON: You know --

MR. PASTORE: What's that? Yeah, go ahead, Adam.

MR. WILSON: If I may -- I'm sorry, it's Jack

25 Wilson. Page 12

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MR. PASTORE: Oh, Jack.

MR. WILSON: The question that I have is I wasn't aware that the Sage property was going to be a piece of this particular settlement deal, and I am a little concerned about the timing on that sale and the equity that is realized at the time of the sale, for obvious reasons. So I don't -- it could take years to sell it. He could take months to sell it, a year to sell it; maybe it doesn't get sold, and then where are we? Is there -- how do we deal with that piece?

MR. LEVINE: We have every interest to sell it and if, you know, that's -- if we don't sell it then we're not released, so I guess ultimately that risk falls on us. But, I mean, it's real estate. I don't know what else to tell you about that. I mean that's --

THE COURT: And the market right now is pretty stable in that area. I can vouch for that. They have a higher exemption than out in Syracuse. They have more wealthy people coming to the area than Syracuse has, which is not one of the wealthiest - Onondaga County being one of the poorest.

MR. WILSON: Okay.

MR. SCHWARTZ: This is Adam Schwartz for Endurance. This is the first time we're hearing about the breakdown of who's paying what and we understood it was

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\$1,350,000. And we understood we were going to have to reserve rights and timing and try to work through that. now we're hearing different people paying different amounts. We certainly appreciate the number, but we're certainly, in terms of being on the record tonight, we're not agreeing to taking any specific amount of any specific indemnitor.

MR. PASTORE: Oh, okay.

THE COURT: No, understood --

MR. SCHWARTZ: \$1,350,000 to be paid by a certain

THE COURT: It's \$1,350,000 is the global agreement.

MR. SCHWARTZ: Yeah.

THE COURT: I thought that part of the problem we had the last time was we didn't get the global offer in and therefore you weren't able to respond. In fact, you are getting separate offers in between in the interim and you didn't want that. So the idea is to have a global settlement that gets it settled on both sides of the equation. And for that, we've had a yeoman effort today to have the one half all combined to be able to come up with a number that you have said is acceptable. Go ahead.

MR. LAURIELLIARD: And if I could add -- yeah, this is Kevin Laurielliard, and I just want to add, though, that there's different components to this settlement.

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Page 15 1 understand Endurance is saying, we're not settled unless 2 we've got a total of \$1,350,000. But my understanding is, 3 vis-à-vis the indemnitors and their rights of contribution, 4 we are settling. So in other words, if we pay our \$240,000 5 and somehow you are unable to sell Sage Estates, no, we're 6 not -- we're not establishing our --7 MAN: No. MR. LAURIELLIARD: -- rights vis-à-vis one 8 9 another? 10 MR. SCHWARTZ: For example, we're making a global settlement. Everybody's got to contribute their money. 11 12 MR. LAURIELLIARD: We are. MR. SCHWARTZ: Endurance has to be paid, and then 13 everybody gets released. 14 15 MR. LAURIELLIARD: No, no, no. I understand. 16 what I'm saying, this is news to me. If we pay \$240,000 17 total, Douglas Jr. pays \$70,000, Nancy pays \$170,000, and 18 then for some reason something outside their control, the sale or lack of sale, if Sage Estates doesn't happen, we're 19 20 back at square one. We're settling up our pro rata --21 MR. SCHWARTZ: No, no. 22 MAN: No. 23 MR. LAURIELLIARD: No? 24 MR. SCHWARTZ: It's a global settlement for the 25 same --

Page 16 MR. LAURIELLIARD: I know. I understand that vis-1 2 à-vis Endurance. I'm talking about vis-à-vis one another. MR. SCHWARTZ: Vis-à-vis one another and 3 4 Endurance. It's a global settlement. 5 MR. LAURIELLIARD: Whoa. So we're carrying this 6 risk --7 MR. BRENNAN: Your Honor --MR. LAURIELLIARD: -- of something we have no 8 9 control over? 10 MR. BRENNAN: Frank Brennan on behalf of Laurie 11 Todd. That was my understanding as well. This is a global settlement offer. It's either settled as to Endurance and 12 13 all parties, or it's not settled as to any of them. 14 MR. LAURIELLIARD: Okay. So if Dougie can't pay 15 the \$70,000, we're back at square one. That's what we're 16 saying. 17 THE COURT: Well, I don't think Endurance needs to 18 know about the piece --19 MAN: Right, I mean there are circumstances --20 THE COURT: -- the pieces were placed on the 21 record right now so that the parties are committing right 22 now that this is their part of the global settlement. 23 That's how we are getting there. 24 MR. LAURIELLIARD: No, I understand. But there's 25 two major components and I thought we were settling both

Page 17 1 sides of it. But I quess it doesn't sound that way. 2 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Schwartz, did you want to 3 say anything before I get people's assent on the record to what's going on here? 4 5 MR. SCHWARTZ: Yeah, quickly. So actually 6 Endurance is treating this matter, you know, joint and 7 several liability until their, you know, settlement is paid 8 of \$1,350,000. That's number 1. Number 2, the rights that 9 Endurance has against -- to a claim against the estate, that 10 won't be released until Endurance is paid in full. And 11 number 3, you know, we also reserve our right 12 (indiscernible) generally. But we appreciate the \$1,350,000 13 that's being talked about. 14 THE COURT: Very good. In the details, of course, 15 are -- the devil is in the details, but you're going to work 16 it out, or God's in the details, whichever way we get there. 17 I am going to now turn to Stanley DiStefano and 18 Christi DiStefano and ask -- you've heard the terms on the 19 record. Are you in agreement with what your attorney has 20 stated? 21 MR. DISTEFANO: Yes. 22 THE COURT: And? 23 MR. DISTEFANO: Yes. 24 THE COURT: And yes. And I'm going to turn to Mr. Brennan's client, Laurie Todd, and ask to indicate, are you 25

Page 18 1 in agreement with the terms? And just speak right into the 2 microphone if you would with the terms, nice and loudly. 3 MS. TODD: Yes. 4 THE COURT: Okay. And let me turn to -- I'm going 5 to call the names separately. Douglas Burbridge, Sr.? Are 6 you in agreement with the terms that have been stated on the 7 record? 8 MR. BURBRIDGE, SR.: Yes. 9 THE COURT: And Nancy Burbridge, are you in 10 agreement? 11 MS. BURBRIDGE: Yes. 12 THE COURT: And Douglas Burbridge, Jr., are you in 13 agreement? 14 MR. BURBRIDGE, JR.: Yes. 15 THE COURT: And Mr. Schwartz I take your comments 16 and what Mr. Wilson said. Mr. Wilson, you heard the terms 17 and what has been expressed today. Are you in agreement on 18 behalf of Endurance Insurance Company? 19 MR. WILSON: Yes. 20 THE COURT: Then I pronounce that we have had a 21 settlement and I thank all the parties again for taking the 22 laboring oar and having their patience today. I just trust 23 that in the same spirit, everyone can move ahead with their lives and that you will be able to work out the details. 24 25 But it will certainly be within a framework that the Court

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Page 21 1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certified that the foregoing 4 transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. 5 Digitally signed by Sonya Ledanski Sonya DN: cn=Sonya Ledanski Hyde, o, ou, email=digital1@veritext.com, c=US Date: 2016.09.22 15:23:34 -04'00' 6 7 8 Sonya Ledanski Hyde 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Veritext Legal Solutions 21 330 Old Country Road 22 Suite 300 23 Mineola, NY 11501 24 25 Date: September 21, 2016

[& - claims]

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